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COURT CHALLENGE TO RESIGNATION IS REJECTED

Augusta, GA: Acting U.S. Attorney Edmund A. Booth, Jr. announced that the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's ruling denying Savannah attorney Joyce M. Griggs' motion for leave to withdraw her resignation from the bar of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, including the Bankruptcy Court. The time for seeking final appellate review expired on March 13, 2003.

On the eve of a show cause hearing concerning Griggs' professional conduct in certain cases before the district court and bankruptcy court, Griggs voluntarily submitted her resignation on May 8, 2001. Pursuant to the terms of the resignation, Griggs agreed not to apply for readmission to the bar of the court for a period of five years. Chief U.S. District Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr. approved and accepted the resignation and signed an order adopting the terms of the resignation.

In January, 2002, Griggs challenged the resignation by filing a motion for leave to withdraw her resignation. She also sought recusal of the district court judges presiding over her disciplinary proceeding. Representing the bar of the court, Booth filed an opposition to Griggs' motion. The district court subsequently entered orders denying Griggs any relief.

Griggs appealed the court's ruling to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. After consideration of the parties' legal arguments, the Eleventh Circuit entered its decision on October 4, 2002 affirming the district court. Pursuant to the rules of procedure, the court issued its judgment on December 13, 2002. Griggs had until March 13, 2003 to seek

review in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Booth stated that the effect of the court's decision is to enforce the five (5) year ban on Griggs practicing in district court, including bankruptcy court, in the Southern District of Georgia.

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